Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 L-03 NSC-05 DHA-02 CIAE-00

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R 171515Z SEP 75

FM AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4786

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, SHUM, SF

SUBJ: CAPE TOWN UNIVERSITY PRINCIPAL COMMENTS ON DETENTIONS

1. THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT WAS ISSUED SEPTEMBER 16 BY SIR RICHARD LUYT, PRINCIPAL (I.E. PRESIDENT) OF UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN: QTE: ONCE MORE CITIZENS, INCLUDING ANOTHER MEMBER OF MY UNIVERSITY, HAVE BEEN TAKEN AWAY INTO DETENTION IN TERMS OF THE TERRORISM ACT; ONCE MORE, OF COURSE, FOR REASONS UNSTATED, FOR PERIODS UNKNOWN AND TO BE REACHED NOT EVEN BY A COURT OF LAW.

QTE AS PRINCIPAL OF UCT, I DEPLORE THAT THIS HAS HAPPENED AND THAT IT CAN HAPPEN.

QTE I EMPHASIZE AGAIN THE HURT TO BOTH A UNIVERSITY SYSTEM AND TO THE WIDER SOCIETY OF WHICH IT IS PART, OF PREVISIONS OF THE TERRORISM ACT SUCH AS THOSE NOW BEING INCREASINGLY USED IN SOUTH AFRICA.

QTE ADDITIONALLY, THE USE OF THESE PROVISIONS WILL, AS ALWAYS, BRING HURT ALSO TO THE INDIVIDUAL PRESONS DETAINED.

QTE IN THE CASE OF GORDON YOUNG, A FINAL YEAR BA STUDENT, HE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IS WITHING FOUR TO FIVE WEEKS OF HIS EXAMINATIONS. THE IMPLICA-

TIONS FOR HIM IN COST OF TIME AND MONEY IN BEING UNABLE TO WRITE THE EXAMINATIONS OR TO DO SO WITH NORMAL PREPARATION ARE DISTRESSINGLY OBVIOUS.

QTE ONE TRUSTS THAT AT THE VERY LEAST GORDON YOUNG WILL BE GVEN FACILITIES TO STUDY FOR HIS EXAMINATIONS AND, IF STILL DETAINED ON THE DUE DATES, TO WRITE THEM. I HAVE MADE A REQUEST TO THIS EFFECT TO THE MINISTER OF POLICE. UNQUOTE

- 2. BEGIN LOU. COMMENTING TO ME LATER ON THIS STATEMENT LUTY SAID THAT YOUNG'S DETENTION WAS PARTICULARLY HARSH. HIS GRADUATION FROM UNIVERSITY AND THE AWARD OF HIS DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF COMMERCE WOULD DEPEND ON HIS PASSING THE EXAMINATIONS. LUYT SAID HE HAD SPOKEN TO COLONEL KOTZE, HEAD OF SECURITY BRANCH OF POLICE IN CAPE TOWN, MAKING POINT THAT THE AUTHORITIES WERE ACTING ARBITRARILY AND WITHOUT REGARD TO HUMANE CONSIDERATIONS INVOLVED. LUYT SAID THAT KOTZE REPLIED THAT HE COULD NOT DISPUTE THAT BUT THAT DECISION TO ALLOW YOUNG TO HAVE ACCESS TO HIS STUDY MATERIAL AND TO TAKE EXAMS WHILE IN DETENTION WOULD DEPEND ON HIGHER AUTHORITIES TO WHOM HE WOULD REFER THE REQUEST.
- 3. LUYT WENT ON TO TELL ME, AS AN ADDITONAL EXAMPLE OF THOUGHT-LESSNESS AND POOR PREPARATION ON PART OF SECURITY POLICE, THAT WHEN POLLEY AND REILLY HAD BEEN DETAINED (CAPE TOWN 0795) HE HAD CALLED KOTZE TO ASK HIM WHAT PROVISION HE HAD MADE FOR POLLEY'S YOUNG SON WHO HAD SUFFERED BRAIN DAMAGE A FEW YEARS AGO AND REREQUIRED SPECIAL HANDLING NORMALLY PROVIDED BY POLLEY OR REILLY. ACCORDING TO LUYT, KOTZE SAID HE WAS UNAWARE THAT POLLEY HAD A SON BUT DID ALLOW LUYT TO COMMUNICATE WITH POLLEY TO ARRANGE TO HAVE SOMEONE REMAIN AT THE POLLEY HOME WITH THE CHILD. GAMON

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